

House destroyed in suspicious blaze

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Ontario Fire Marshal's office has been called to help investigate a suspicious fire that leveled a Campbellville home Saturday.

Barry Kory of the Milton Fire Department said neighbours called 911 at about 2:15 a.m. when they noticed flames coming from a nearby home on Second Line, south of No. 10 Sideroad, behind Mohawk Racetrack.

One of the calls came from a home located just 50 metres away from the burning building; the couple was awakened by the red, intense glow, Kory said.

Firefighters responded to flames shooting 50 to 60 feet in the air. The house — a two-story, vinyl-clad structure — was fully involved. Nobody was inside.

Feeding the blaze was natural gas from a line that had been compromised, said Kory. It took about 35 firefighters from all three stations about four hours to extinguish the fire, which destroyed the house.

Crews prevented the fire from spreading to neighbouring homes despite winds that fanned the flames, Kory said.

There were no injuries to firefighters and water was accessible



Crews worked long hours in the cold to battle a Second Line house fire, through Mohawk's hydrant system.

"It was a long night and it was extremely cold, so the crews were quite exhausted by the day's end, but they did great," Kory said.

The Milton Fire Department's rehab truck was on hand to allow firefighters turns to warm up and rest.

The house belonged to someone who was rarely there, Kory said, and it took a few days before the owner could be notified.

The cause hasn't yet been determined. Kory said the Office of the Fire Marshal is called to investigate fires of a suspicious nature.

Damage is estimated at between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

For most of last weekend, investigators — and sniffer dogs — were at the scene, sorting through debris, Kory said.

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